

CONTINUOUS BANDING SYSTEM FOR WRAPPING AN ELONGATED
ARTICLE SUCH AS A STACK OF INTERFOLDED PAPER TOWELS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wrapping apparatus for wrapping a continuous elongated article, such as a
5 continuous stack of interfolded paper towels, includes a web supply section that supplies a
pair of continuous webs of wrapping material, and a wrapping section for applying the
continuous pair of webs about the article. The web supply section includes a pair of web
supply stations for each web of wrapping material, and a source of wrapping material, such
as a supply roll, is located at each web supply station. The web supply section includes a
10 splicing mechanism for each pair of web supply stations, for splicing together the trailing
end of a web from an exhausted supply roll of wrapping material with the leading end of a
web from a fresh supply roll of wrapping material, to provide a continuous web of wrapping
material to the wrapping section. The web supply section includes a festoon-type web
storage mechanism in which the web downstream of the splicing mechanism is trained about
15 a series of rollers in a serpentine path. The rollers are movable toward and away from each
other, e.g. by mounting one set of rollers to a movable frame, to enable the web to be
continuously supplied to the wrapping section during the splicing operation, which maintains
the web ends stationary during splicing. The webs of wrapping material are applied to the
elongated article such that side areas of the webs overlap each other, and adhesive such as
20 hot glue is applied between the overlapping areas of the webs. A pressure application
assembly applies pressure to the overlapping areas of the webs to even out the adhesive, and
the wrapped elongated article is discharged from the wrapping section through a discharge
passage which includes a cooling assembly for extracting heat from the seal between the
overlapping webs. The wrapped elongated article is then discharged from the wrapping
25 section for subsequent processing.